



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
5 May 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Voluntary

Intrada

Grayston Ives

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 98

Leader:

Sing to our God a new song.

People:

**God has done marvelous things!**

Leader:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

People:

**Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Leader:

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

People:

**Let the world and its people sing together for joy!**

**\* Hymn 634**

To God Be the Glory

*To God Be the Glory*

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, restore us that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ. Lead us toward wholeness, we pray, that we may be filled with joy. Hear our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

**\*Declaration of Pardon  
and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.  
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**  
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

**\*Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
world without end, Amen, Amen.

**Children's Sermon**

**Congregational Response**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks Donald Fishel  
**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

*Students in preschool – Grade 5 will go to their Sunday  
school class following the Congregational Response.*

**First Scripture Reading**

1 John 5:1-6 Pew Bible, NT page 241

**Second Scripture Reading**

John 15:9-17 Pew Bible, NT page 109-110

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Connections to Power** Rev. Gerald Boutelle

*Text: "The father will give you whatever you ask in my name."  
John 15:16b  
"For whatever is born of God conquers the world."  
1 John 5:4a*

**Anthem**

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring Johann Sebastian Bach

Jesu, joy of our desiring, holy wisdom, love most bright.  
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned  
With the fire of life impassioned.  
Striving still to truth unknown, soaring, dying 'round thy throne.

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

*A Brief Statement of Faith (Part I)*

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.  
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news  
to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.  
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,  
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.  
God raised this Jesus from the dead,  
vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

## **The Church at Prayer**

Choir: Surely the presence of our God is in this place,  
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.  
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;  
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

## **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Presentation of our Gifts**

*At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass  
the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

### **Offertory**

La Bourrée

Michael Praetorius

**\*Offertory Response**      Doxology  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**      Holy and loving God, in Christ you have chosen us to be your friends and to share in your will for the world. We gather with humble hearts in this worship service to take our part. May these tithes and offerings spread your peace and goodness near and far throughout your kingdom. Amen.

**\*Hymn 32**      I Sing the Mighty Power of God      *Ellacombe*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Closing Response**      Forth in Thy Name      Orlando Gibbons

**\*Voluntary**      Trumpet Tune in D      John Stanley  
(\* ) The congregation is invited to stand.

### SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Flowers in the Chancel Flowers** are given in loving memory of Laurie Maddox from her husband Cress L. Maddox, and their children Jennifer Wagner, Amanda Kurmann, Sarah Graham, Jessica Hemmenway, and Cress B. Maddox.
- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
- **Worship Leader:** Macklin Metzger
- **Acolytes:** Juliet Boutelle and Juliana Eastvold
- **Greeters:** Mary Ray and Bill Deemer
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher) Kyle Duffy, Bud Green, Chris Hickman, Joyce King, Camille Massey, Bill Schlosser, Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney
- **Videographers and Sound:** Elsie and Bob Fox, Bob Leffler

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. VBS Leadership Meeting (Pastor's Study)**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God Answered Daniel's Prayer" (Daniel) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz, Priscilla Kluge*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Sunday School** Children begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
  - **Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** The story is "Included in God's Love" (Acts 10:44-48). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Laura O'Reilly*
  - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** The story is "Included in God's Love" (Acts 10:44-48). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Karen Sherrick*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Adult Education Forum presents *The Gospel of J. Edgar Hoover* on Sunday, May 5** at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. On the 100th Anniversary of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI career, explore how Hoover and the FBI teamed with leading white evangelicals and Catholics to support a vision of a white Christian America. *Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz*
- **1:00 p.m. Nurse Honor Guard Ceremony (Sanctuary)**
- **1:45 p.m. Nurse Honor Guard Reception (Parish Hall)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org). Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED LAYETTE ITEMS** which will be donated to Kumler Outreach Ministries in early May. We received 59 knitted items, 36 sewn items, and 95 purchased layette items totaling 190 items. items, thanks to your generosity.



**PW SPONSORS BLANKETS+ DURING MAY** PW and Springfield's Church Women United sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday) during May. Church World Services collaborates with local communities to identify people with needs and secure resources to build a more viable future. Donate by writing a check or on the church website.

**PENTECOST OFFERING** Westminster will continue to participate in the Pentecost denominational offering which unites the church by helping youth begin their life with a solid foundation of faith. **Forty percent of all gifts stay within Westminster and our portion will support the 2024 Youth Mission Trip.**



**STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY** - Join in the renovation work of 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. Dates and times are available at SignUpGenius on the church home page.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

**LITURGICAL ARTS FESTIVAL OF SPRINGFIELD** presents *Creation: Revelation of the Divine Saturday, May 4 – Saturday, May 11*. A week of interfaith celebration of the liturgical arts programming held at various places of worship. The festival is inspired by the beautiful diversity of faith traditions within our own community. LAFS programs are accessible to those of any faith or none. **Admission is free.** See the program list and locations at [lafspringfield.org](http://lafspringfield.org).

**THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM** will meet **Wednesday, May 8**, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Springfield Art Association (700 North Fourth Street) for their final 2023-2024 gathering. Join us as we participate in an art project created by members of the Springfield Art Association board. Lunch bags will be provided by the Temple B'rith Sholom. Sign up with Meleah or Aaron at [berkowitz@wpcspi.org](mailto:berkowitz@wpcspi.org) or Mary Ray.



**226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY** Dr. Kieffer will be in Salt Lake City **Monday, May 6 – Thursday, May 9** in her role as a member of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) to assist in preparing for the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PC(USA). Dr. Kieffer has served on COGA since June of 2020.

**THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION** will be **Mother's Day, May 12** during the 10:00 a.m. service. The Children's Choir will also present a special Mother's Day anthem.

**ADULT EDUCATION FORUM** presents *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony* on **Sunday, May 12 at 11:15 a.m.** in Parish Hall. On the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, learn the story of how Beethoven's hearing loss did not deter his creativity, but instead, expanded it. *Led by Dale T. Rogers*

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets **Monday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m.** for our spring dinner at Dublin Pub. Please RSVP to Eleanor VanDeventer by Wednesday, May 3.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets **Tuesday, May 21 at 9:30 a.m.** in the church library. Sharon Zook will lead Lesson 8 "Lydia Encounters Jesus" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** will meet **Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Pat Wheat (11 Pickering Lane, 62712). Christy Pound will lead the devotional *Finding Faith in the Mundane* by Kathleen Norris (pages 363-368).

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be **Thursday, May 9 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. The future head of Memorial Health and current Vice President, Kevin England, will speak on what's to come for Memorial. Rich Canady will provide breakfast and Roy Wehrle will provide devotions. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

**DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)** DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet **Friday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and Program at 6:15 p.m. Harl Ray, senior project manager for the Secretary of State's Department of Physical Services, will speak on the State Capital construction with a program called "Pardon Our Dust." RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.

**DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY POTLUCK** Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study celebrates their 2023-2024 journey through Genesis, John, and the Holy Land Revealed on Thursday, **May 16 at 5:30 p.m.** with communion and a potluck dinner at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer.

**SPRINGFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY** presents *In Paradisum* on **Friday, May 17** at 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Joined by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, featured works by Faure, Bruckner, Barber, Dalglish, Dodson, Duruflé, Kirchner, and Trumbore will be included. Westminster choir members who also sing in Choral Society include Jim Kontio, Adam Miller, Lyle and Eleanor VanDeventer, Brian Richardson, Dale Rogers, and Jennie Alt.

**THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO  
A GARDEN PARTY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18 AT 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.**

**HOSTED BY LINDA PURVES**

**6 N. COTTON HILL LANE**

**INSTALLATION OF 2024-2025 OFFICERS**

**BIRTHDAY OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED.**

**RSVP at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org) or with [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org)**

**FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 19  
"WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD" PARTY!**



Join us on Pentecost and Founders' Sunday, May 19 for worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a picnic reception in Parish Hall as we celebrate our new neighbors, the Velasquez Alonso Family. This partnership with WelcomeCorps and the Exodus World Service has been one of Westminster's greatest joys in 2024. The Betty Smith Mission Endowment Fund along with the hospitality of so many members is truly inspiring. Come, join our fiesta featuring Nicaraguan dishes as we welcome our new neighbors.

Each year on Founders' Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites others to join the Albert Hale Circle. **Those who donate or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 17 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 21 and in the June Reporter.**

**BACCALAUREATE IS SUNDAY, JUNE 2** Graduating high school seniors are honored during the 10:00 a.m. service. A reception in their honor will be held in Parish Hall following worship. All Westminster graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) will be listed in the June 2 bulletin and the June Newsletter. Please contact Jennie Alt ([jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org)) with information by Friday, May 24

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP FIRELIGHT JUNE 3-7, 2024** Monday – Friday, June 3-7 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will gather to experience God's love surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills! Campers learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, we will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world. Registration is open at <https://wpcspi.mycokesburyvbs.com/>.



**FIFTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK: June 17 – 21, 2024**



As of April 15, we have received 30 matching grant and 19 service week project applications. We invite you to join us for one or more days during the third week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood. Additionally, on Juneteenth, which falls in the middle of the week, we have the opportunity to come together to celebrate our abolitionist foundation and give back to the community. If you are interested, contact Todd Knox at [hardknox1@mac.com](mailto:hardknox1@mac.com).

## WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

### Monday, May 6

- 9:00 AM Garden Club (Parish Hall)
- 12:00 PM Refugee Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 5:00 PM Compass Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (Parish Hall)

### Tuesday, May 7

- 12:00 PM KDO – Willing Circle (Youth Room)
- 12:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Compass for Kids

### Wednesday, May 8

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in the Chancel (Chancel)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Conference Room)
- 4:30 PM Children of Abraham at Springfield Art Assoc. (Off site)
- 4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)

### Thursday, May 9

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)
- 10:00 AM WCP Mother's Day Tea (Parish Hall)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

### Friday, May 10

- 10:00 AM WCP Mother's Day Tea (Parish Hall)
- 1:00 PM Helping Hands Bagged Lunch Prep (Kitchen)
- 5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)
- 6:15 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

### Saturday, May 11

### Sunday, May 12

#### Holy Communion

#### Mother's Day

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Chapel)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
533 S. Walnut St.  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
Phone (217) 522-4415 Fax (217) 522-4465  
<http://www.wpcspi.org>

### WESTMINSTER STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
Pastor and Head of Staff

**The Reverend Christian K. Choi**  
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
Parish Associate

**Dale T. Rogers**  
Director of Music and the Arts

**Mary Ray**  
Director for Youth

**Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz**  
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

**Katie Moore**  
Director for Children's Music

**Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinator

**Emily Rowley, Keri Tate**  
Cooperative Preschool Staff

**Ellen Carpenter**  
Parish Nurse

**Pat Hymans**  
Hospitality Coordinator

**Lisa Runkle**  
Financial Administrator

**Jennie Alt**  
Church Administrative Assistant

**Krista Steller**  
Communications Coordinator

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,  
Terry Gietl**  
Part-time Custodians